

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 4 to line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

JP-U60-145216A discloses a “catalytic converter in which cells having a trapezoidal cross-sectional shape are provided in a state in which the open area of each cell is increased stepwise from the center section toward the outer circumference”, JP-U62-163697A discloses a “honeycomb structure in which triangular cells formed by providing a partition wall which connects opposite angles of a square cell are provided near the outer circumference of the honeycomb structure”, and USP3853485 discloses a “honeycomb structure in which the number of partition walls provided between two opposite sides of an octagonal cell is increased stepwise from the outer circumferential section toward the center section of the honeycomb structure”.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 18, line 20 to line 24, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The “open slit area with a central point on the intersection” used herein means the area of the slit opening in the range which starts from the one intersection 25a and ends at the midpoint of a straight line which connects the one intersection 25a with each of the adjacent intersections 25b to 25e, as shown in FIG. 13 (indicated by right-slanting lines in the drawing).